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TOKYOPOP
REBIRTH
Story and Art by Woo
17

REBIRTH™

VOLUME 17

STORY and ART BY
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STORY THUS FAR
THE VAMPIRE LORD TOURNAMENT CONTINUES, AS THE RANKS OF THE COMBATANTS BECOME THINNER AND THINNER. MILLENIAR, HAVING BEEN TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE BY MR. GREY, STUNS THE CROWD IN HER FIRST BOUT. AFTER TOYING WITH HER OPPONENT IN THE OPENING MINUTES OF THE ROUND, SHE DESTROYS HIM USING THE POWER OF LIGHT—A DANGEROUS TACTIC FOR ANY VAMPIRE. MR. GREY STEPS INTO THE RING AS WELL, UTTERLY DECIMATING HIS UNFORTUNATE ADVERSARY. THEN, IN THE MIDST OF DESHI'S NEXT FIGHT, HE FINDS HIMSELF UNEXPECTEDLY THRUST INTO THE PAST—RELIVING THE WORST MOMENT OF HIS LIFE—THE NIGHT THAT KAL MURDERED HIS BELOVED LILITH...

REBIRTH™

Vol 17

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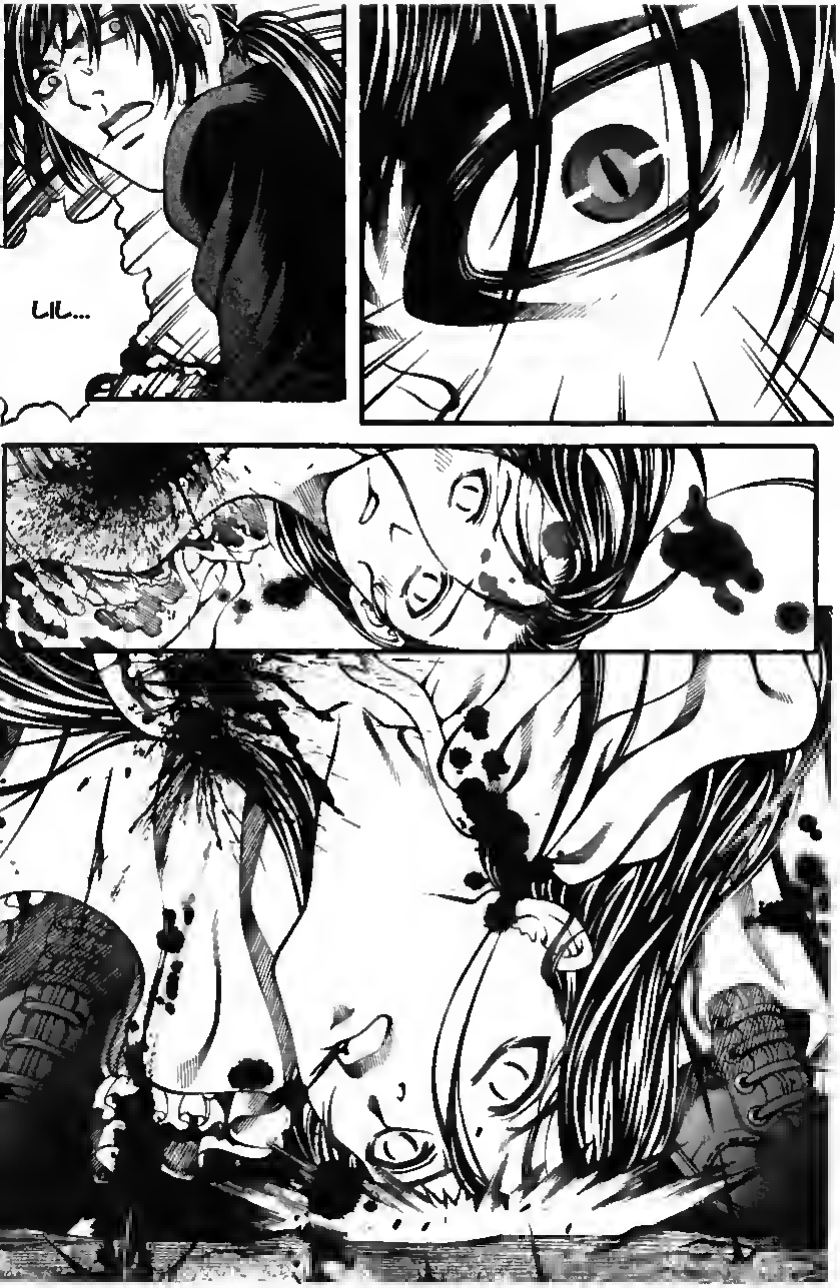
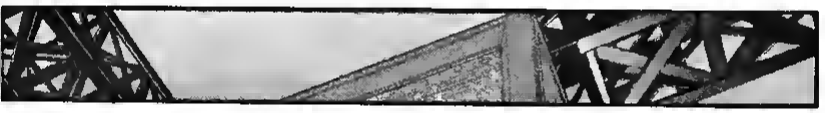
...I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE HER!

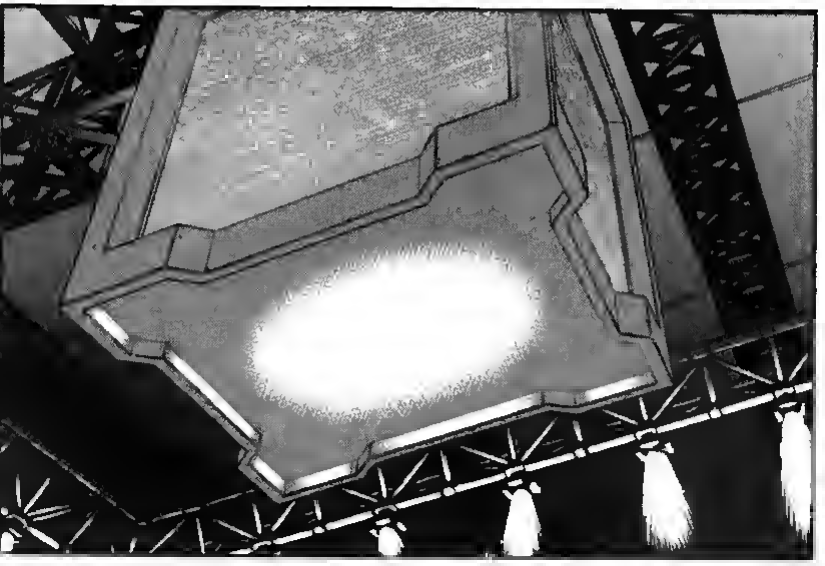
OF
OF
OF


LIL...

NOT AGAIN...
I COULDN'T PROTECT HER...
ドドド
LILITH, I FAILED YOU AGAIN...
AND THIS CURSED BODY WON'T EVEN LET ME DIE!
CONSTANTLY... ALONE...
...FORCED TO LIVE ON, AGAINST MY WILL.

...WITHOUT YOU.
...SO TIRED...





EL
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DESHWI TAT!!
IOH!
HMPH! I MUST SAY, I'M DISAP-POINTED IN YOUR OLD FRIEND, DESHWITAT.
EVERYONE'S GOT A CHINK IN THEIR ARMOR... WHO KNEW HIS WAS PSYCHO-LOGICAL? HE'S TOTALLY GIVEN IN TO THE ILLUSION CAST BY HIS OPPONENT.
DISAPPOINTING. LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT TO FACING YOU, MY DEAR.

HOLD ON, DESH... HOLD ON!

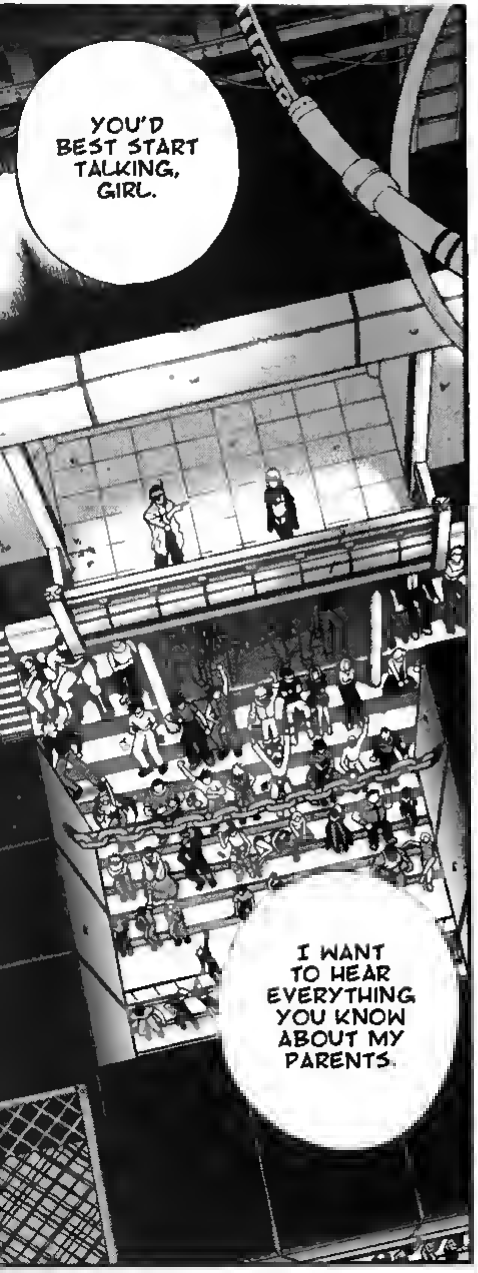
VLT 32ND ROUND, 7TH GAME-- DESHWITAT L. LUDBICH VS. POISON ASH!!
IN A RATHER UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS IN THIS CONTEST...
...COMPETITOR DESHWITAT... WHO HELD THE LEADERSHIP POSITION THUS FAR...
...SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO COMPLETE CATATONIA BY HIS OPPONENT THIS ROUND!

THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END...
IF DESHWITAT FAILS TO OVERCOME THE POWER OF HIS OPPONENT'S PSYCHIC ABILITIES
...THIS ROUND IS OVER!
DAMMIT, DESH! GET UP, MAN!!

SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...?
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE KNOWN BEFORE GOING IN..BUT SHE NAILED HIS WEAKNESS RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
BOY WEARS HIS PAIN ON HIS SLEEVE FOR ALL TO SEE LURKING RIGHT BELOW THE SURFACE. JUST NUDGE IT AND IT ALL BUBBLES UP HE'S STRONG...STRONGER THAN ANY OF 'EM, 'CEPT MAYBE MONSTERS LIKE GREY AND MILLENEAR...
...BUT HE'S GOT A WEAKNESS THAT CAN'T BE ERASED.
TOUGH EXTERIOR..BUT HE NURSES A TENDER HEART.
AND WE'RE LOOKING AT THE RESULT OF THAT WEAKNESS!
MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
...DESHWITAT'S LOST.
POOR LITTLE BABY.. WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
AND AFTER TALKING SO BIG, TOO... ♡
LOOKS LIKE COMPETITOR POISON ASH IS TAKING THE TIME TO TAUNT HER FOE. INSTEAD OF FINISHING HIM...
SHE'S LOOKING CONFIDENT, AS IF VICTORY IS ASSURED...
SHE'S MOVING IN CLOSE... COULD WE BE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE FINAL BLOW?
THIS IS BORING! FINISH HIM, ALREADY!
KILL!
KILL HIM!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WENT DOWN SO FAST. I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS SEEING RIGHT NOW!
DON'T BE A FOOL.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING QUESTIONS THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS TO?
?
UNLESS...NO. COULD HE REALLY BE THAT DENSE?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?
ONLY ONE IMAGE COULD CAUSE DESHWITAT SUCH DESPAIR.
HE'S RELIVING THAT ONE FATEFUL DAY, OVER 350 YEARS AGO...
...WHEN KALUTIKA MURDERED HIS BELOVED LILITH RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM
WHAT...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MY FATHER KILLED MY MOTHER?!

OUT WITH IT, GIRL. WHAT YOU JUST SAID...
I WANT TO HEAR IT IN
FATHER... MOTHER...
...IS THAT WHAT HE JUST SAID?!

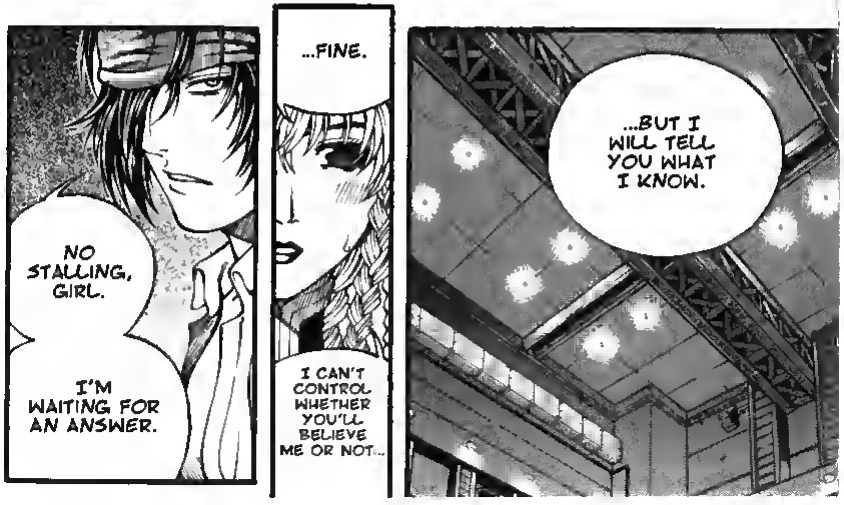

YOU'D BEST START TALKING, GIRL.
I WANT TO HEAR EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT MY PARENTS.

THEIR PAST...THEIR CONNECTION TO DESH-WITAT...
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING... RIGHT NOW!

AND I SWEAR, GIRL, IF YOU LIE TO ME...
...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I'LL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER STOP SCREAMING.

FATHER... MOTHER...
...YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...?
...BUT THAT WOULD MEAN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.... I SENSED A CONNECTION BETWEEN GREY AND KALUTIKA, BUT...
...KAL'S SON? MOREOVER, A SON BETWEEN KALUTIKA AND LILITH?!
WHY? HOW? AND WHY IS IT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM?


NO STALLING, GIRL.
I'M WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.
...FINE.
I CAN'T CONTROL WHETHER YOU'LL BELIEVE ME OR NOT...
...BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.

POOR LITTLE POPPET NOW THAT WE'VE REACHED YOUR END, I MUST SAY, I FOUND OUR BATTLE STRANGELY DISAPPOINTING.
I ALMOST FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BEEN CHEATED, YOU FOLDED SO EASILY.
STILL, A VICTORY IS A VICTORY, AND THE CROWD IS GETTING RESTLESS. BUT I'M NOT WITHOUT MERCY, POPPET... ♡
...I'LL GIVE YOU A QUICK DEATH
BUT BEFORE YOU DIE I HAVE TO WONDER...
...BEHIND THOSE HANDSOME, FIERY EYES...
...WHAT HORROR IS IT THAT YOU SEE?

...LILITH...
WHAT COULD BE SO TERRIBLE?
SO HERE WE ARE AGAIN, DESHWITAT. AGAIN WE SEE THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN POSESS THAT I CANNOT TAKE AWAY.
YOU CAN'T CHANGE HISTORY, DESH. NOW BE A GOOD BOY...
...AND DIE!!

...HURTS...
...BUT I CAN STOP THE PAIN...JUST CLOSE MY EYES...
I'VE FAILED. I DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT ANYMORE...I DON'T HAVE TO BE IN PAIN ANYMORE...I DON'T HAVE TO LOSE ANYTHING EVER AGAIN...
...JUST... CLOSE MY EYES...AND LET GO.

...HIM.

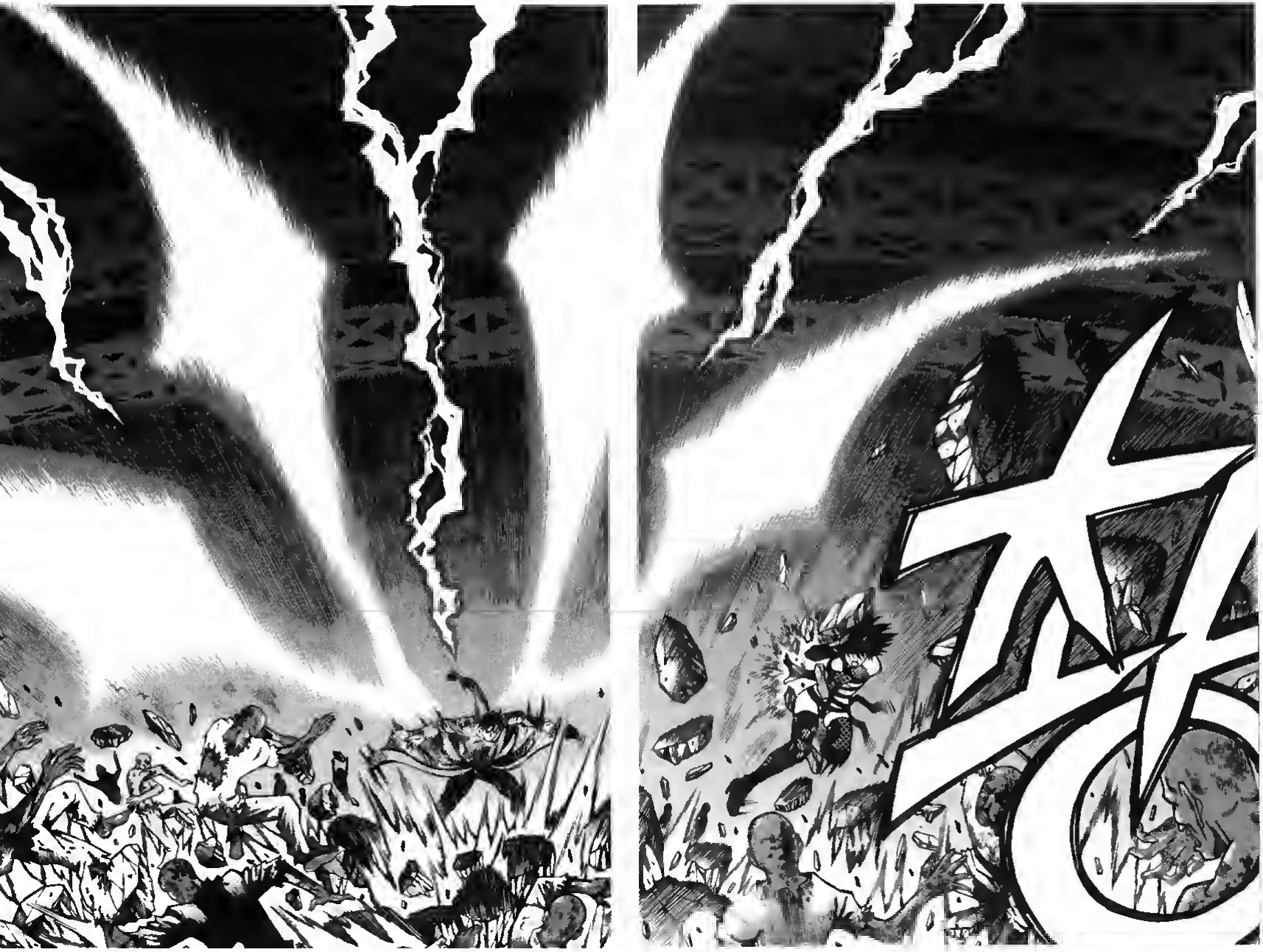
NO! WHY DO I HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS...?!

I PROBABLY CAN'T DEFEAT HIM. HE'LL KILL ME...AGAIN.

BUT IF I CAN GIVE HIM ONE LAST BLOW...SPIT IN HIS FACE ONE MORE TIME...

WHY COULDN'T I SAVE YOU, LILITH?

WHY WASN'T I STRONG ENOUGH?!



IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID...?

UNBELIEV-ABLE! IT APPEARS DESHWITAT HAS BROKEN FREE OF HIS OPPONENT'S SPELL!
OR WAS HE PLAYING POSSUM ALL ALONG? REGARDLESS, DESHWITAT'S ATTACK HAS SENT POISON ASH REELING!
CHAPTER 68: RESURRECTION FROM DEATH
COULD THE TIDE OF THIS BATTLE HAVE TURNED?

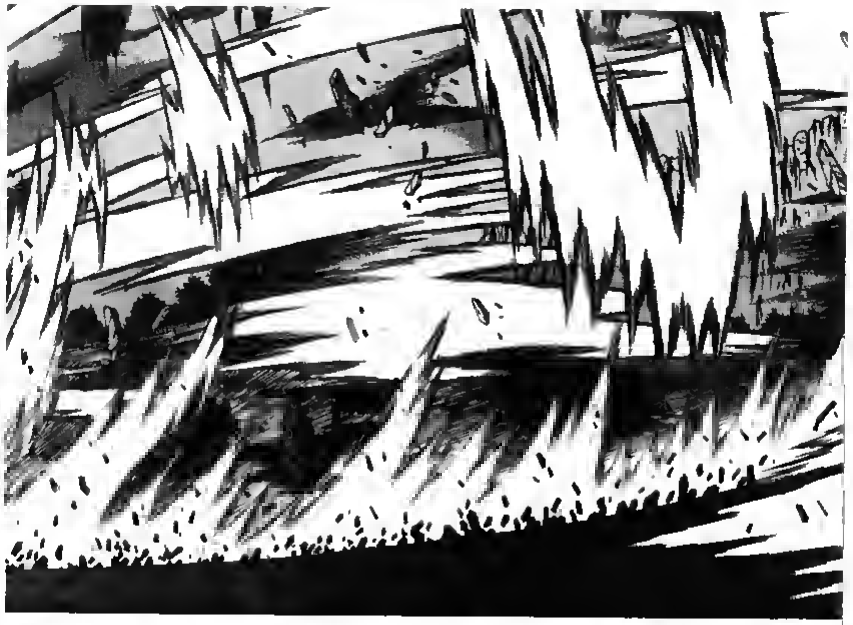
OR IS DESHWITAT MAKING ONE LAST, DESPERATE GAMBLE?
AND IF SO...
...COULD POSION ASH HAVE ANOTHER TRICK UP HER SLEEVE?

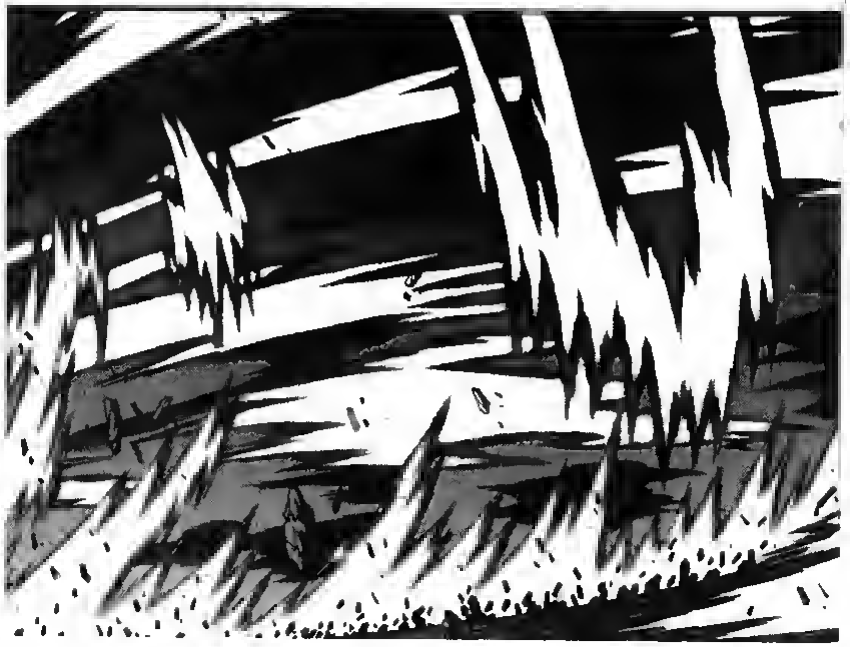
THAT'S MY BOY! I KNEW HE COULD DO IT!
NOW, DESH... GET IN THERE AND GIVE THAT BATSHIT-CRAZY BITCH WHAT FOR!
LITTLE EARLY TO BE CASHIN' IN YER CHIPS, RETT.
HUH?
TAKE A LOOK AT OUR BOY HE AIN'T BROKEN FREE OF ASH'S SPELL.
HE'S ON HIS FEET...BUT NOTHIN'S CHANGED.
HE'S STILL LIVIN' IN THE FANTASY HE'S FIGHTIN' BACK AGAINST WHATEVER DEMONS SHE'S CONJURED UP... BUT HE'S STILL SOMEWHERE ELSE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... MY SPELL IS STILL IN EFFECT... SO WHY ARE YOU STILL FIGHTING?
I TRIED TO BE MERCIFUL... BUT I GUESS...
...WE'LL DO THIS THE HARD WAY!

YOU SON OF A BITCH...
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
YOU MAY KILL ME KAL, BUT I SWEAR BY ALL I AM...
...I'M GOING TO TAKE A PIECE OF YOU WITH ME.
YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY YOU FACED ME!
HEH. WHAT IS THAT SAYING...? "EVEN A WORM WILL WIGGLE WHEN IT IS STEPPED ON."
COME THEN, WORM...LET US FINISH THIS!
WHAT ...?!

HRAAGH!





URG... DAMN YOU...
IT WAS MINE...THE COMPETITION WAS MINE...
HOW...HOW DID YOU BREAK MY SPELL...?
WHERE DID I GO WRONG...? I WAS SO CLOSE...
...COMPETITION?! SPELL...?! WHAT?
WHY...WHY DOES KAL SPEAK WITH A WOMAN'S VOICE?
URGH... KUGH...

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COME THEN, WORM...LET US FINISH THIS!
HEH. WHAT IS THAT SAYING...? "EVEN A WORM WILL WIGGLE WHEN IT IS STEPPED ON"
POISON KISS!
WHAT ...?!

AGH!

STAY OUT OF MY HEAD, WITCH.

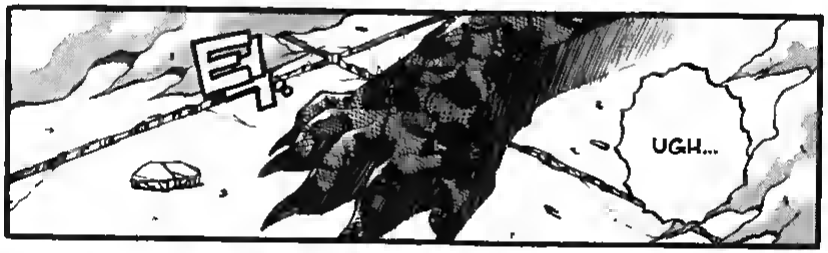
...!!
INCREDIBLE! DESHWITAT HAS TURNED THE TIDE!
DEFEAT LOOKED CERTAIN FOR DESHWITAT...
...BUT HE HAS COME FROM BEHIND AND NOW HAS POISON ASH ON THE ROPES!

KILL HER!!
RIP HER APART!
FINISH HER!

UH...

THE... ARENA...?
THAT GIRL...IN MY HEAD SHE...

IT WAS AN ILLUSION. ALL OF IT.


UGH...

YOU... INCREDIBLE BASTARD!
YOU WERE MINE...SO DEEP IN THE ILLUSION... YET YOU SHATTERED IT WITH A SINGLE BLOW...!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU MAKE PEOPLE SEE.

!

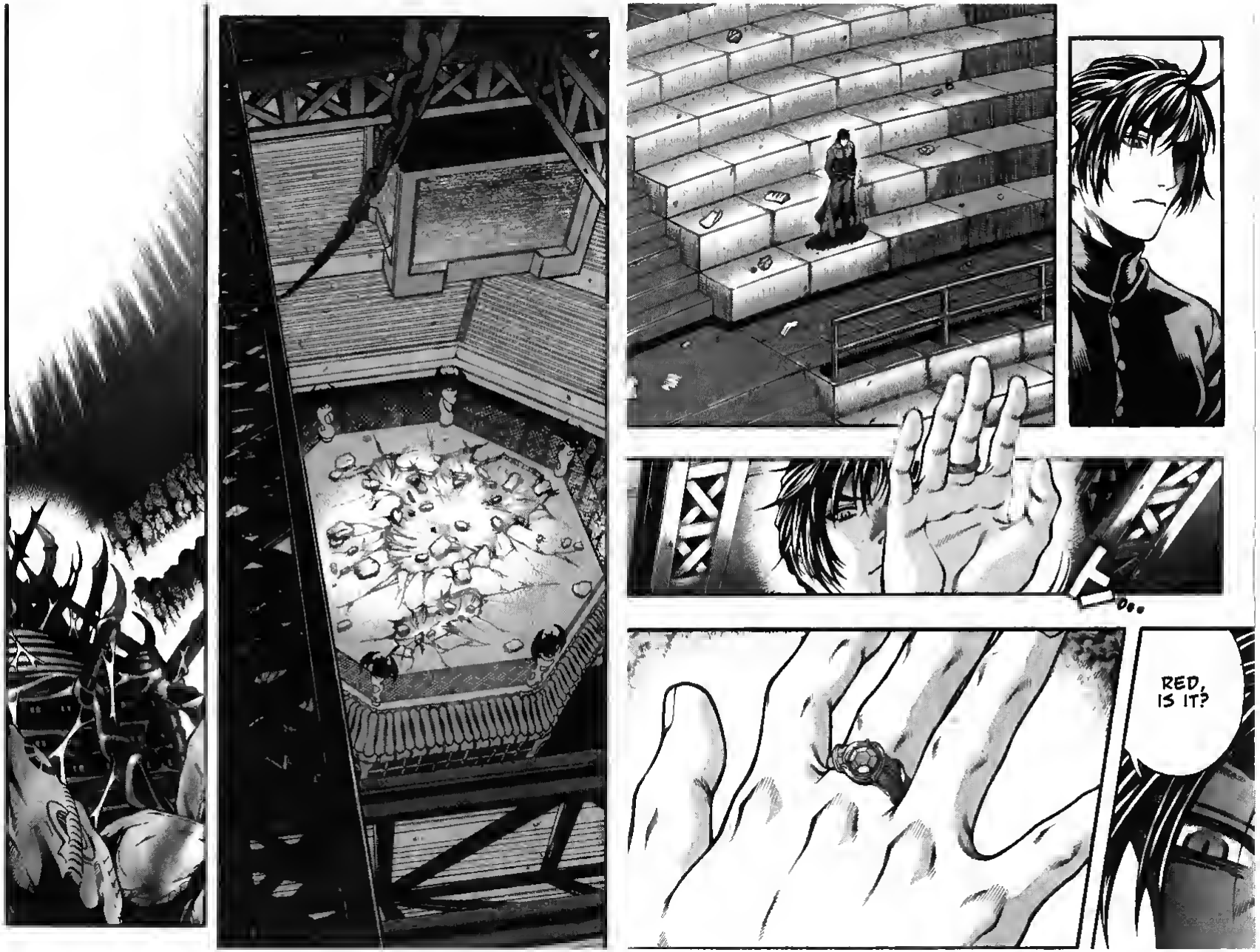
SOME MIGHT FIND SOME MEMORIES TOO PAINFUL TO RELIVE.
I WONDER... HOW SHOULD I REPAY YOU FOR THAT?
W...WAIT! THIS IS A MISUNDER-STANDING! AH, I MEAN, IT'S TRUE THAT I CAST THE SPELL...
...BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU SAW! THE ILLUSION IS CONJURED FROM THE PSYCHE OF THE VICTIM. I DON'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER WHAT YOU SEE!
LOOK, IT'S OVER, OKAY? I LOSE! I GIVE UP!
PLEASE, DON'T KILL ME!

...I HAVE TO ADMIT, PART OF ME IS THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU DID.
YOU LET ME SEE SOMEONE I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE AGAIN.

BUT THEN...

...I ALSO HAD TO RELIVE THE PAIN OF LOSING HER.
A BETTER PERSON MIGHT BE ABLE TO FORGIVE THAT...

N-NO!
DON'T!


RED, IS IT?

THERE YOU ARE! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

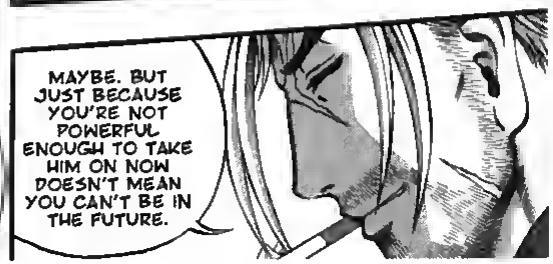
YOU HAD US STREAKING OUR DRAWERS FOR A MINUTE THERE! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE FOR!
I WARNED YOU THERE WERE POWERFUL OPPONENTS HERE... BUT THERE'S NO REASON THAT GIRL SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME SO CLOSE TO BEATING YOU! YOU GOTTA STAY FOCUSED, LAD...
WELL I WON, DIDN'T I? SO LET'S SKIP THE LECTURES TODAY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE, ANYWAY? SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING READY FOR TOMORROW'S COMPETITION?
I NEEDED SOME TIME TO MYSELF.

WHATEVER SHE DID TO YOU REALLY GOT YOUR GUTS IN A TWIST, EH?
FORGET IT, MATE. IT WAS ALL AN ILLUSION, RIGHT?

THAT ILLUSION SHOWED ME SOMETHING, RETT.
IF KAL APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW-- IF I GET THE CHANCE TO FIGHT HIM AGAIN...
...WOULD I BE ABLE TO GET IN A GOOD SHOT?

PROBABLY NOT. HE'LL PROBABLY DESTROY ME BEFORE I GET THE CHANCE.
I'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR ON SHEER LUCK.

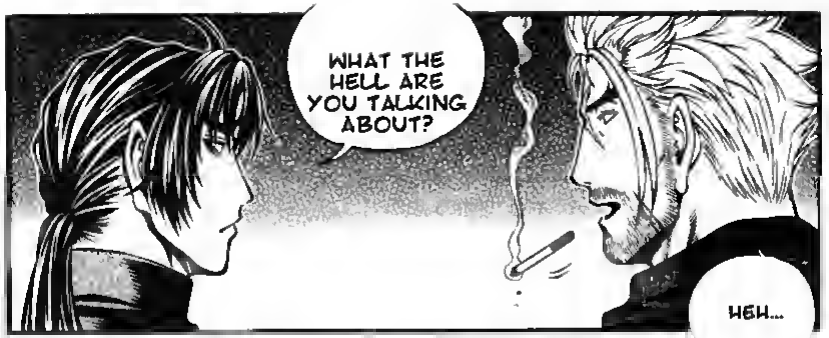

MAYBE. BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM ON NOW DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T BE IN THE FUTURE.

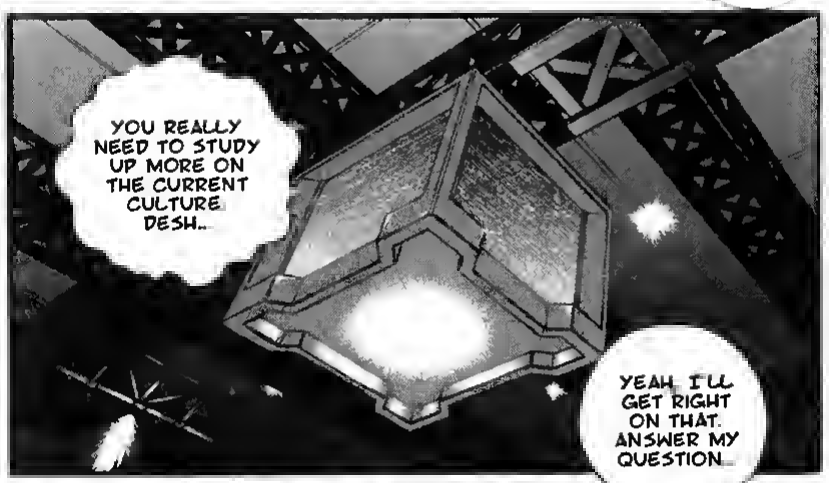
DON'T GO PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE, MY FRIEND.
FOCUS ON THE MOMENT. BEAT OUT THAT GREY GUY AND BECOME THE VAMPIRE LORD.
DRAISTAIL SEEMS TO THINK BECOMING VAMPIRE LORD MIGHT BE THE FIRST STEP IN RIVALING KAL.

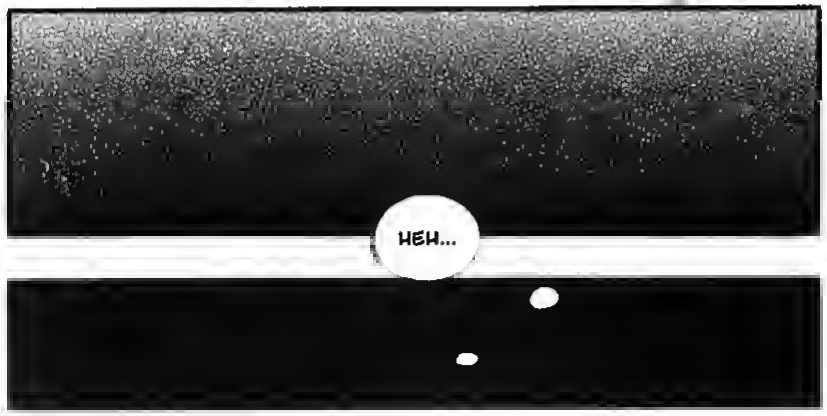
WHEN IT COMES TO FACING KAL... COUNTING TODAY'S ILLUSION...
...IT'S TWO FIGHTS, TWO LOSSES. BASES ARE LOADED. BUT YOU GOT TWO OUTS AND TWO STRIKES...

SO, NEXT TIME, YOU KNOCK IT OUT OF THE SODDIN' PARK.
THEN THE OUTS AND STRIKES DON'T MATTER. ALL ANYONE REMEMBERS IS THE GRAND SLAM.

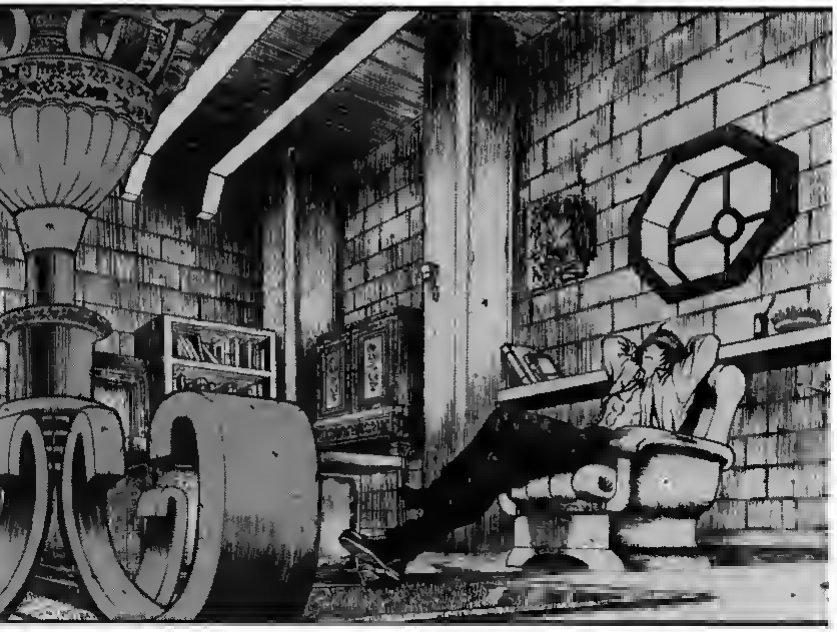
GRAND SLAM?
RETT...


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEH...


YOU REALLY NEED TO STUDY UP MORE ON THE CURRENT CULTURE, DESH...
YEAH, I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT. ANSWER MY QUESTION...


HEH...

BOB
GREY



SO, KALUTIKA MAYBUS WAS RESURRECTED AS THE GOD OF LIGHT...
WHETHER IT WAS HATRED FOR HUMANS OR REVENGE AGAINST DESHWITAT...OR SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS DRUNK ON POWER...

...OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ALL THREE...HE MURDERED LILITH, THE TRUE LOVE OF THE MAN ONCE HIS CLOSEST FRIEND, RIGHT IN FRONT OF DESH'S EYES.
THEN MURDERED DESHWITAT AS WELL, AND SEALED HIMSELF IN DARKNESS... FOR 357 YEARS.

SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH...OR AT LEAST BELIEVES SHE DOES. THERE IS NO REASON FOR HER TO LIE.
IT MAKES A STRANGE SORT OF SENSE.

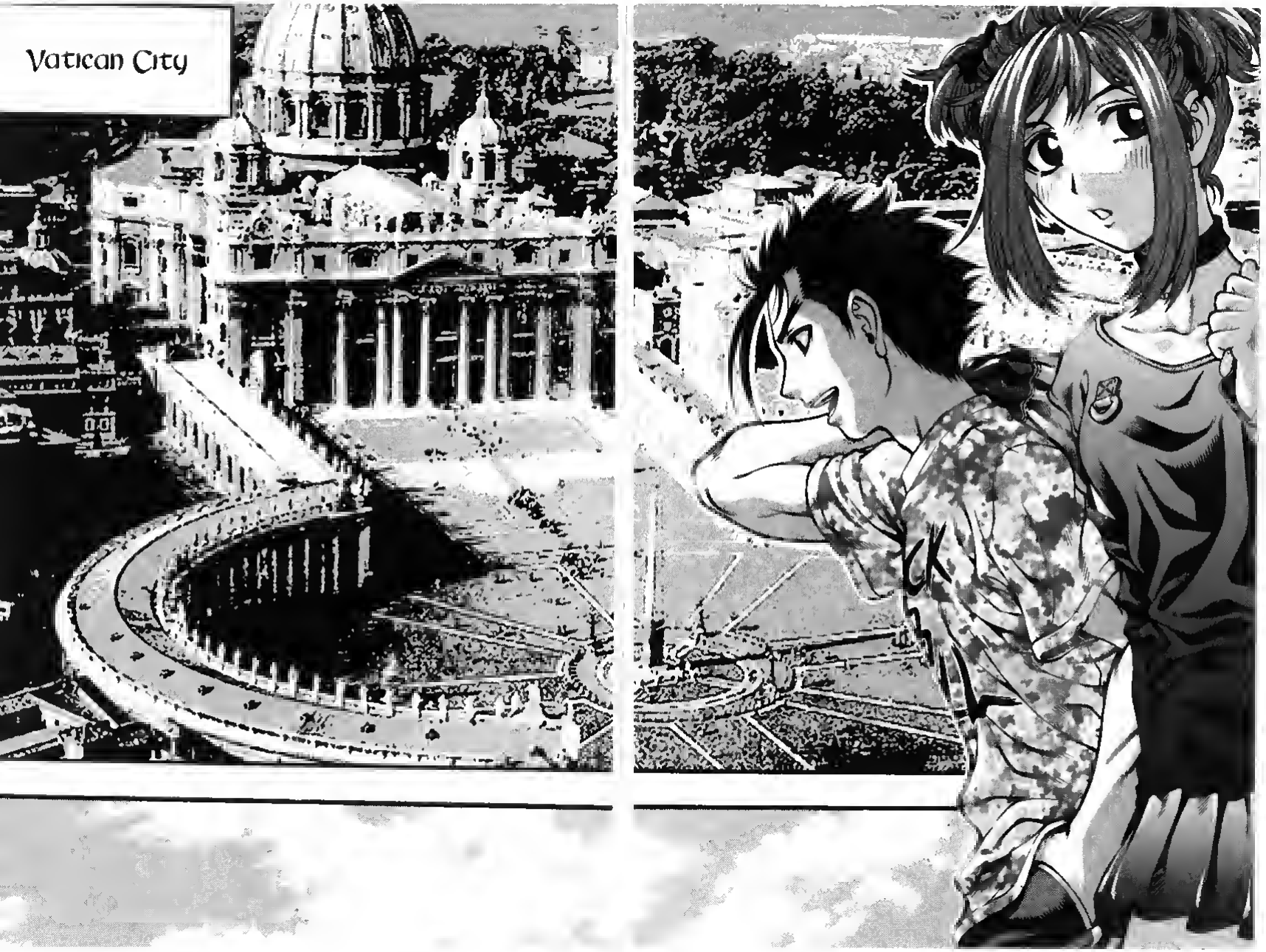
WHAT I CANNOT UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER...
...IS HOW LILITH HAD A CHILD WITH THE MAN WHO KILLED HER AND THE ONE SHE LOVED, YET LIVED WITH HIM FOR 350 YEARS.

THAT'S MY QUESTION TOO, MILLENEAR.

I ALREADY KNEW THAT MY MOTHER AND FATHER HAD A RATHER CONTENTIOUS RELATIONSHIP...
...BUT I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

I MUST ADMIT, I AM AT A LOSS HOW SHE COULD BEAR HIM A CHILD.
MY FATHER SEALED HIMSELF AND MY MOTHER IN DARKNESS FOR 357 YEARS...
I DESPISE HIM...YET IT IS MY MOTHER WHO CONFUSES ME I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY, FOR 350 YEARS, SHE HAS OBEYED HIM AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...
.....
THERE'S SOMETHING MORE AT WORK HERE.
SOMETHING THAT I DO NOT YET KNOW.

Chapter 69: In Search of the Helper


Vatican City

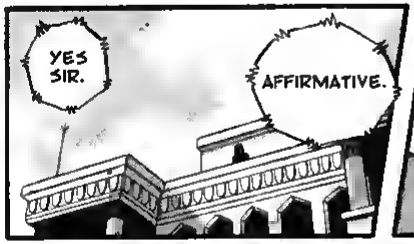
WOW! THIS CITY IS AMAZING!

BUT WHY EXACTLY ARE WE HERE?
You never tell me anything...
...

WOULD YOU BE QUIET? I HAVE A PLAN! NOW COME ON.

FATHER WILLIAMS-- HE'S A MAN WHO GAVE US A LOT OF HELP THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE-- THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
HE'S LIKE A FATHER TO MILLENEAR SINCE HE WORKS AT THE VATICAN, I'M SURE HE KNOWS ABOUT THIS "ST. MICHAEL" GROUP THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR.

TARGET IS ON THE MOVE.
TRAVELING NORTHEAST ON THE BOULEVARD. ORDERS?

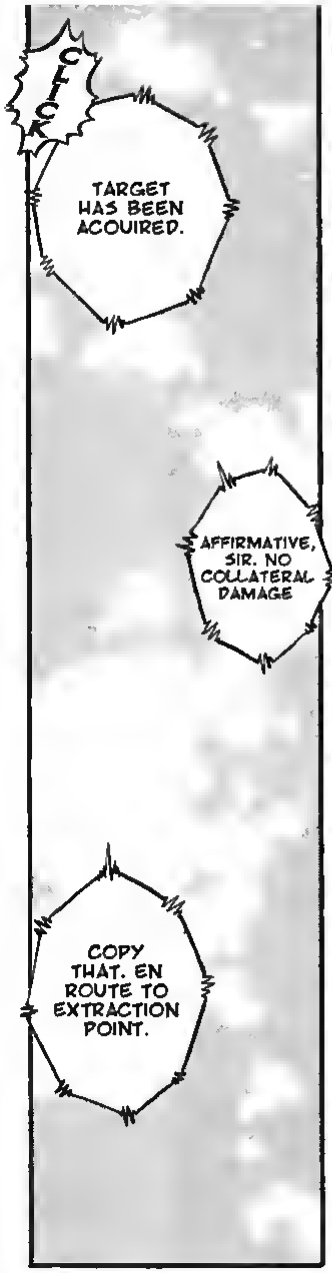

YES SIR.
AFFIRMATIVE.

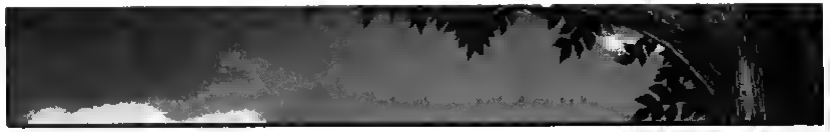
ALL RIGHT EVERYONE... YOU HEARD THE MAN.
ATTACK TEAM, YOU HAVE A GREEN LIGHT.

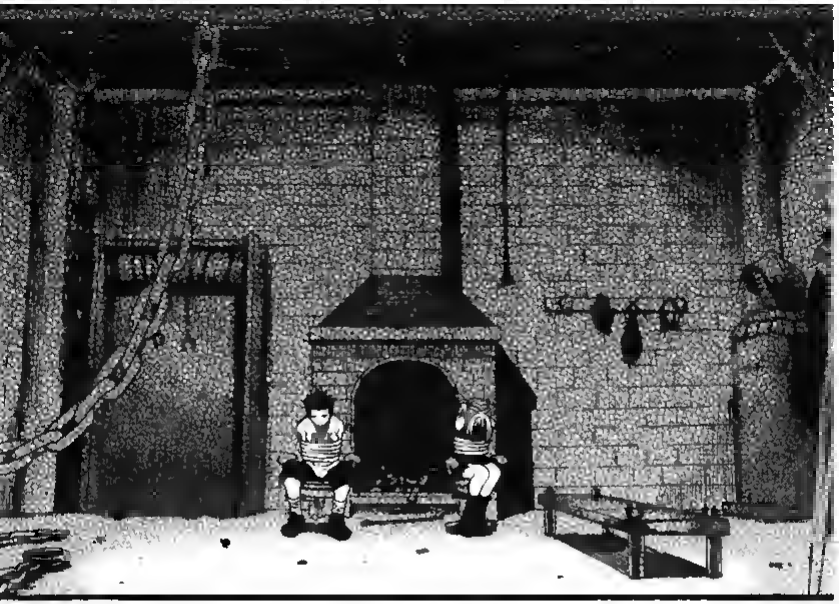
VROOOM

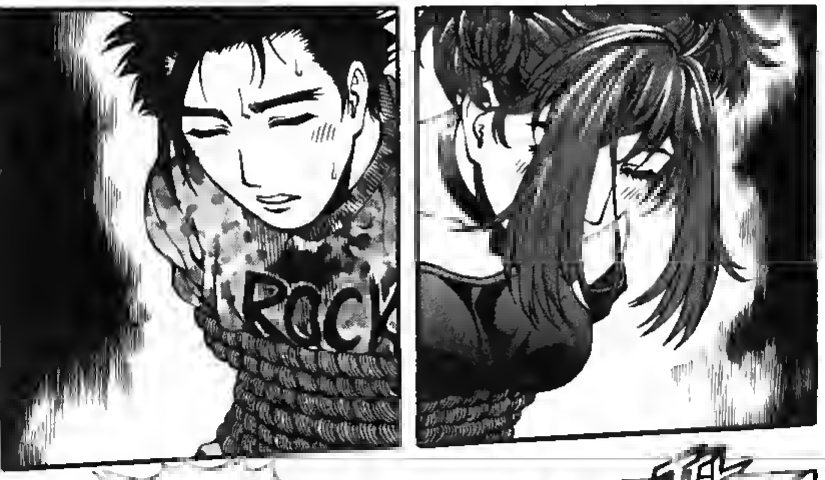
AAAH!
REMY... LOOK OUT...!
...HUH?!

AH--!
UG... ?!
UH...UH... THIS...THIS IS...?!
TRANQ... TRANQUILIZER...
GUN...?!


CFC
TARGET HAS BEEN ACQUIRED.
AFFIRMATIVE, SIR. NO COLLATERAL DAMAGE
COPY THAT. EN ROUTE TO EXTRACTION POINT.






ROCK

WAKEY WAKEY!

...UH... HUH...
UM...

HO HO! THE EFFECTS OF THE DART WILL WEAR OFF SOON ENOUGH, MY WANDERING YOUNG SHEEP.
I'M FATHER MIHAEL, HEAD OF THE FOURTH EXORCIST DIVISION OF THE VATICAN.

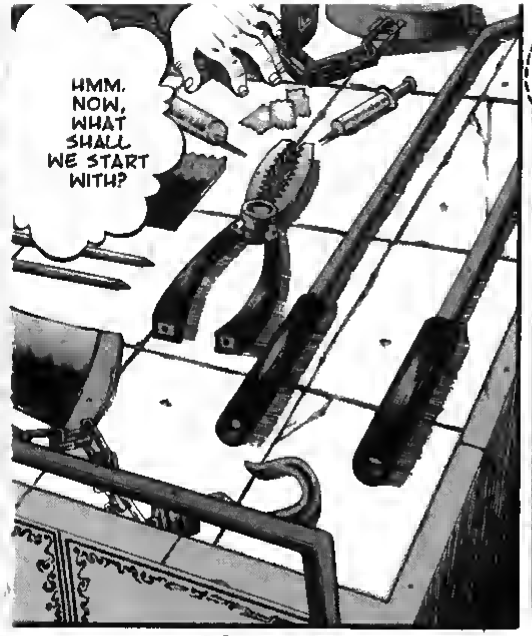
YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED US--?!
UNTIE US RIGHT NOW, JERK!

MY MY... SUCH LANGUAGE! SHEEP WITH DIRTY MOUTHS...
...AND "KIDNAPPING" HAS SUCH A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION. LET'S CALL IT... AN AGGRESSIVE INVITATION.

INVITATION MY CUTE LITTLE ASS...
MOST INVITATIONS DON'T INVOLVE BEING LASHED TO A CHAIR!
HO HO...I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS.
THE ROPES ARE UNFORTUNATE, BUT NECESSARY. AS WAS YOUR INVITATION. I COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES, CONSIDERING THE EVIL ENERGY EMANATING FROM YOUR BODIES.
EVIL ENERGY?
YES. THE TAINT OF THE DEVIL. THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY SATAN HIMSELF..
HE'S CRAZY... BUT LET HIM TALK. MAYBE HE'LL SPILL WHAT'S GOING ON...
BESIDES, NO ROPE MADE CAN HOLD ME!
BE NOT AFRAID, YOUNG SHEEP. IF YOU RESIST THE DEVIL, HE SHALL FLEE FROM YOU.
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU. I SHALL RID YOU OF THE DEVIL'S TAINT!

WELL, HEY, THAT'S DARN NICE OF HIM... YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY?
IT'S THE TOURNAMENT!
WE JUST CAME FROM THE LARGEST MEETING OF VAMPIRES IN THE WORLD--NO WONDER HE THINKS WE HAVE THE STENCH OF THE DEVIL ON US!
SO, UH...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CLEANSE US?
IS ALL IN READINESS?
YES, FATHER MIHAEL.

DRV
NOW WAIT JUST A DAMN MINUTE! HOLY WATER AND "THE POWER OF CHRIST COMPELS YOU" CHANTS I CAN HANDLE... BUT THOSE ARE FRIGGIN' TORTURE TOOLS!
WRONG!
THEY ARE THE TOOLS OF PURI-FICATION!
UH, ANYTIME YOU WANT TO UNTIE YOURSELF, EIJI...
NOW WOULD BE A GREAT TIME TO SHOW OFF THOSE NINJA SKILLS!


HMM. NOW, WHAT SHALL WE START WITH?

HURRY!
DON'T WORRY...
YOU'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE MYSTICAL SKILLS OF THE 18TH OF THE MU-YUN-CHUN-SIN TRIBE'S MAGIC PAE-SIN FAMILY.
AH... FIRST...

WE MUST FIRST REMOVE THE TRAPPINGS OF MAN.
IN ORDER FOR THE SOUL TO BE PURIFIED, YOU MUST BE IN THE STATE YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE BORN...

HEH HEH...
HEE HEE HEE...

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE WE'RE STILL TIED UP HERE, EIJI...
I WAS JUST SEEING IF WE COULD GET ANYTHING USEFUL OUT OF HIM... I'LL BE LOOSE IN A SECOND... I THINK...
...GREAT...

OOOKAY. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS ONE COMING!
YOU SICK FREAK...YOU WANT TO GET YOUR JOLLIES BY HAVING US ALL NAKED WHILE YOU TORTURE US...

YOU CREEPY OLD PERV...

흐하하하-
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR!!
WHEN YOU PURIFY THE SOUL, OF COURSE SHE MUST BE ALL NUDE, RIGHT?!
ROCK
드읏
흐
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히
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히
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? DID YOU FORGET THIS GUY'S A CATHOLIC PRIEST?
AFTER HE'S DONE WITH ME, WHO DO YOU THINK'S GOING TO BE PLAYING ALTAR BOY?
WHAT? YOU MEAN HE... OH GROSS! THAT'S JUST SICK! I'LL BE FREE IN A JIFF...
UM... THIS ROPE'S A LITTLE THICKER THAN I'M USED TO...TIGHTER TOO...
I AM GOING TO KILL YOU, EIJI!
ENOUGH WHISPERING... NO SECRETS HERE, LITTLE LAMBS...

NOW, LITTLE LAMB... STAY STILL...
...YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO CUT YOU UNNECES-SARILY.
OH, GROSS! LET ME GO, YOU...
A LITTLE HELP HERE, EIJI?!
TRYING TO CONCEN-TRATE...WOW, THAT'S A NICE BRA...
NOW, NEXT...
...!!!!
!!!!!!

OH, EIJI... I DO WISH YOU'D HURRY... ♡
YOU SEEING ME LIKE THIS...IT'S GOTTEN ME SO HOT...
flush♡
stuff stuff
WHAT SAY WE GET OUT OF THESE ROPES, DITCH THE OLD MAN AND THEN I CAN DO SUCH NAUGHTY THINGS TO YOU, EIJI ♡
NAUGHTY...?
WAIT A MINUTE! I'M NOT BUYING THIS FOR AN INSTANT!
THE MAN INABA EIJI IS NOT AN IDIOT WHO WILL FALL FOR SUCH THINGS SO EASILY!!
I'M NOT A MORON, YOU KNOW! TEASING ME ISN'T GOING TO HELP MATTERS!
OH EIJI... I'LL HELP YOU TO BE AS HARD AS YOU CAN...
JUST AS SOON AS YOU GET US OUT OF THESE ROPES...WE CAN GET OUT OF THESE CLOTHES. ♡
AND...
HELL...
I'M TOO EMBAR-RASSED TO SAY ANYMORE I'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOU.

I'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOU.
♡
EEP!
CRITICAL HIT!
WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?!
...?!!
SOMETIMES, LIKE THE WIND SOMETIMES, LIKE THE RIVER GO! FIGHT! WIN! NINJA BOY GO! FIGHT! WIN! SUPER NINJA APPEARING WITHOUT A SOUND, HE CRUSHES THE EVIL ONES!
WHAT IS THIS... THIS HORRENDOUS SONG?
IT'S MY SONG, YOU DECREPIT OLD PEDOPHILE...
I AM INABA EIJI, THE 18TH OF THE MU-YUN-CHUN-SIN TRIBE'S MAGIC PAE-SIN FAMILY, COME TO BRING JUDGMENT TO YOUR EVIL DEEDS!

NOT A BAD ENTRANCE, BOY...
...BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR BIG RESCUE SCENE IS ABOUT TO BE CUT!
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T FAULT YOUR TASTE IN THE LADIES...
HWA-AK

...IF ANYONE'S GOING TO GET FIRST DIBS ON REMI'S NAUGHTY BITS, IT'S ME!

GAHCK!
...
WELL...ROPES ARE UNTIED...BAD GUY'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT...LET'S GET OUT OF THESE CLOTHES AND OL' EIJI WILL TAKE YOU TO PLEASURE TOWN!
EIJI...
I WOULDN'T LET YOU TOUCH ME IF THE SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE DEPENDED ON IT, YOU CREEP!

UNGH...
THEY'RE LOOSE! HELP! EVERYONE! THE MINIONS OF SATAN WALK AMONG US!
AAAA

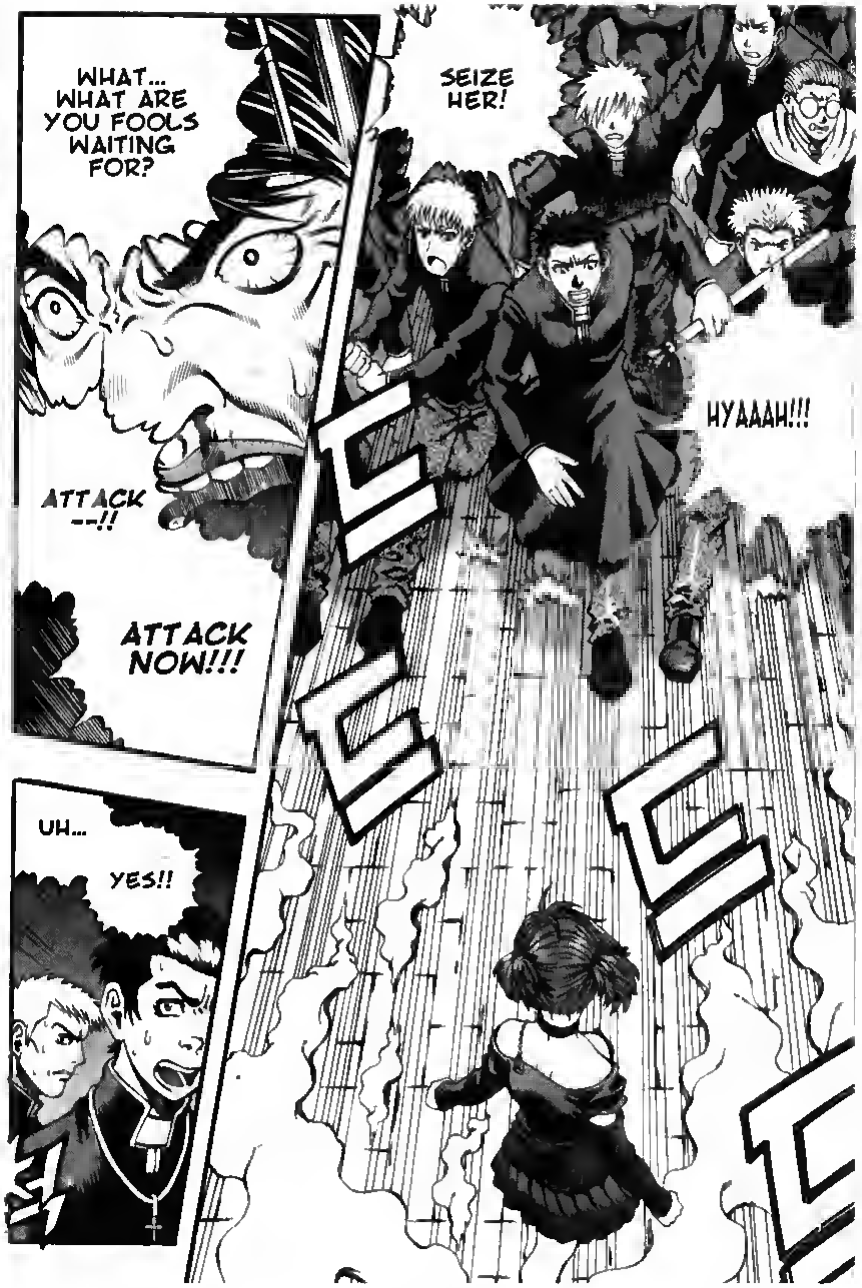
YOU WANNA TALK TO THE DEVIL, OLD MAN?
THEN BRING IT ON...
...AND...
...I'LL SEND YOU TO MEET HIM!

OSL FIGHTING!
STAR LEAGUE™
WWW.ONGAMENET.COM

THINK I'M BLUFFING, GRANDPA?
MAKE A MOVE. FIND OUT.
BUT KNOW THIS--I WILL BURY YOUR BONES IN THIS DIRTY CHURCH.

ONLY A CREATURE OF THE DEVIL...
...WOULD TALK SO WHILE BRAZENLY DISPLAYING HER UNDERWEAR.
OH!
HA HA HA HA! YOU FELL FOR IT!
ON THE CONTRARY...
I LURED YOU IN CLOSE...
YOU WANNA SEE MY UNDERWEAR? WELL, TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

AAAGHK!
I GIVE YOU THIS ONE OPPORTUNITY, OLD MAN...
...TO DO THE RIGHT THING. JUST WALK AWAY, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE LIFE WITH WHICH TO SEEK FORGIVENESS.


WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU FOOLS WAITING FOR?
SEIZE HER!
HYAAAH!!!
ATTACK --!!
ATTACK NOW!!!
UH...
YES!!

HYA!
SU-HO-RYUNG: MOTHER EARTH MOVE --!!

WRATH OF THE EARTH!
AGH!
UAAAH!
GAAH!

WOW!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT BARELY TOOK ANY EFFORT AT ALL!
GWWUUH!
HAVE I REALLY GOTTEN SO STRONG?
CLENCH

COULD IT BE...ALL MY TRAINING IS FINALLY PAYING OFF?!
I CAN FINALLY BE OF HELP TO MY FRIENDS!
YAAAAH!
YOU WANT SOME, BOYS? IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
DON'T WORRY, REMI! YOUR EIJI WILL SAVE YOU!
I really hoped I had killed him...

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178

INABA
178

ADMIT IT... THAT GOT YOU HOT.
ちがわ-

NOW--HOW SHALL WE REPAY THE OLD MEN WHO WASTED OUR PRECIOUS TIME?
I DON'T KNOW--BUT I THINK IT WILL BE VERY EXPENSIVE, DON'T YOU?
ROCK & ROLL
...NO...I MEAN... THAT... THAT IS...

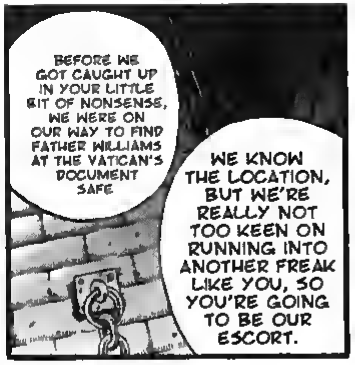
100

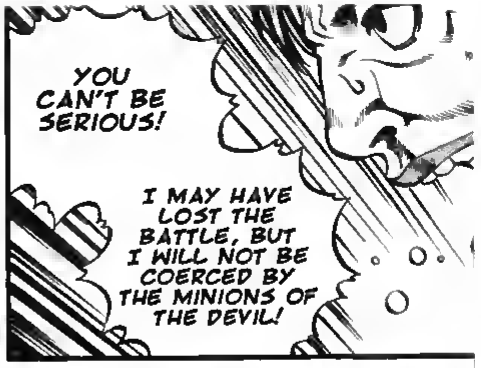
HEY--CREEPY MCGEE. WAKE UP.

URG?

AH-AH-AH...MON-MONSTER?!!
화들짝

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT THAT LUCKY.
IF YOU LISTEN TO ONE REQUEST, I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
A REQUEST?


BEFORE WE GOT CAUGHT UP IN YOUR LITTLE BIT OF NONSENSE, WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO FIND FATHER WILLIAMS AT THE VATICAN'S DOCUMENT SAFE
WE KNOW THE LOCATION, BUT WE'RE REALLY NOT TOO KEEN ON RUNNING INTO ANOTHER FREAK LIKE YOU, SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR ESCORT.


YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I MAY HAVE LOST THE BATTLE, BUT I WILL NOT BE COERCED BY THE MINIONS OF THE DEVIL!

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU...?

HEE... HEE HEE....
THIS WAY PLEASE- WE ARE ALMOST THERE. HEE HEE HEE
WE'RE HERE.

WE'RE HERE.

WELL...
I GUESS WE DON'T NEED FATHER FONDLE ANYMORE...
...SO...
KYUK --?!!

WHY... WHY WOULD YOU...?!
I DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO DO...!!
PARDON US FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU TO MAKE TROUBLE ONCE WE GO IN.
AND CONSIDER THIS...
..GET OUT OF THE PRIESTHOOD. GET PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP. BECAUSE IF I HEAR OF YOU (GETTING ROUGH) WITH ANYONE ELSE...I'LL BE BACK.
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AND I WON'T BE AS NICE NEXT TIME!
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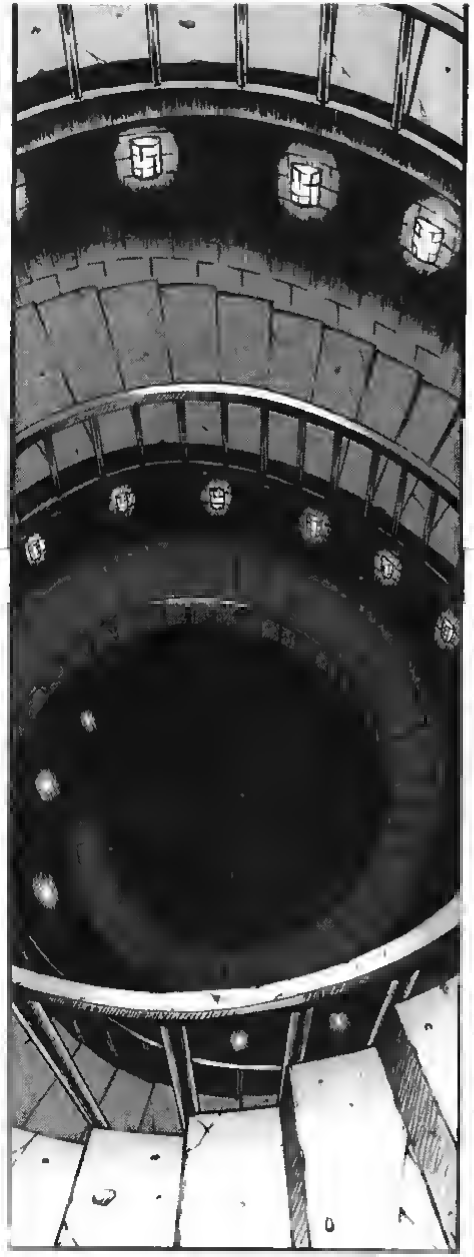

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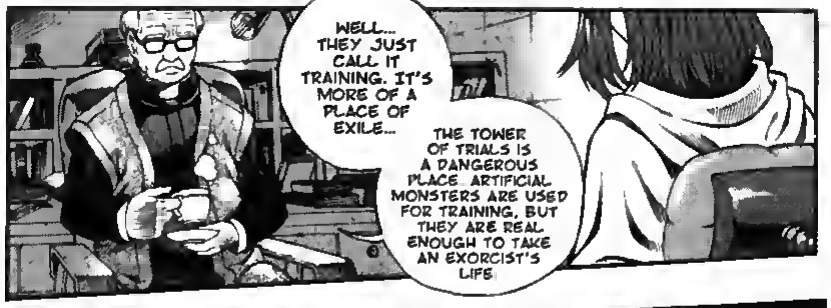
...HM?
HELLO? FATHER WILLIAMS?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
HA HA! WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MISS REMI?

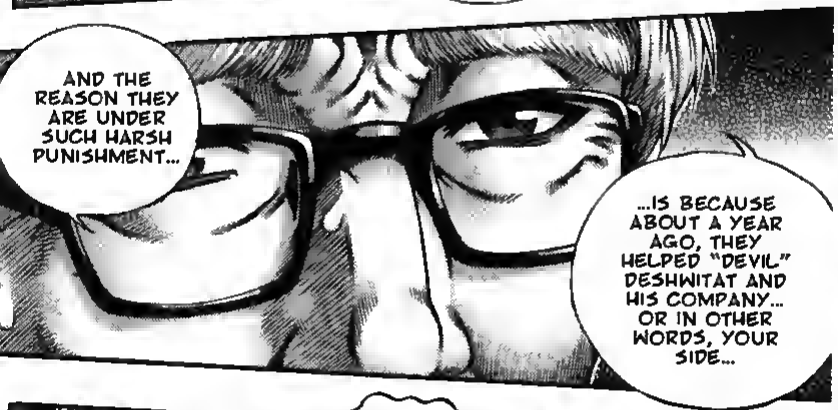
COME CLOSER, MY CHILD.
MILLENEAR DIDN'T COME WITH YOU? IS SHE WELL?
AH... THAT... THAT IS...
MI... MILLENEAR IS...
YES, SHE'S HEALTHY AND DOING WELL MILLENEAR.
SHE JUST HAD SOME OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES THAT KEPT HER FROM COMING THIS TIME.
...
I SEE...I'M GLAD SHE'S DOING WELL.
BUT, TELL ME, WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY HERE?
AH, YES. UM...THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO ASK OF YOU, FATHER WILLIAMS.

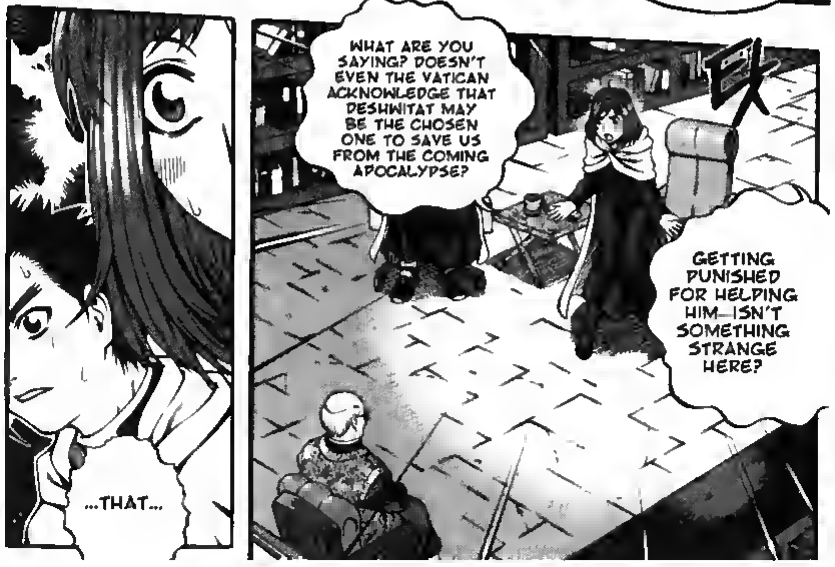
HM--
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL.
YES. WE REALLY NEED THEIR HELP.
DO YOU KNOW, BY ANY CHANCE, WHERE THEY ARE OR HOW WE CAN REACH THEM?
LET'S SEE... I'M A LITTLE OUT OF THE LOOP THESE DAYS I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE CORRECT INFORMATION, BUT...
ANYTHING YOU KNOW WOULD BE HELPFUL, FATHER.

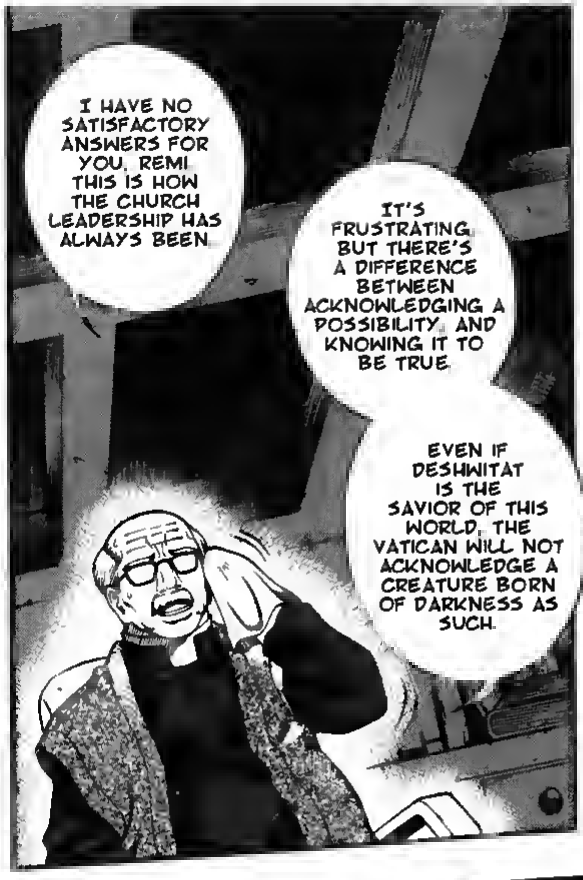
THE ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL... THE VATICAN'S ULTIMATE WARRIORS...
I'M NOT QUITE SURE..BUT ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS THEY ARE TRAINING AT THE "TOWER OF TRIALS" SOMEWHERE AT THE VATICAN

TRAINING? I THOUGHT THEY WERE STRONG. WHY WOULD THEY NEED TO TRAIN?
TO KEEP THEIR SKILLS SHARP, MORON! NOW BE QUIET!!

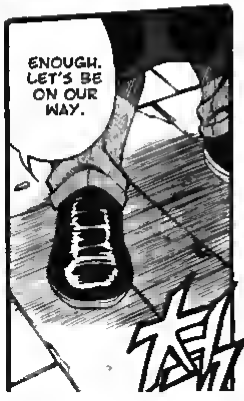

WELL... THEY JUST CALL IT TRAINING. IT'S MORE OF A PLACE OF EXILE...
THE TOWER OF TRIALS IS A DANGEROUS PLACE. ARTIFICIAL MONSTERS ARE USED FOR TRAINING, BUT THEY ARE REAL ENOUGH TO TAKE AN EXORCIST'S LIFE.

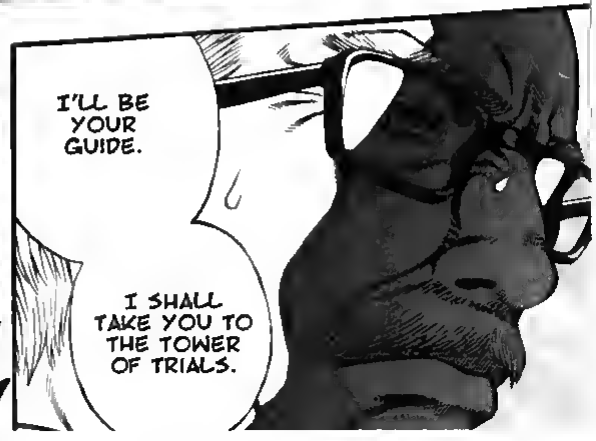

AND THE REASON THEY ARE UNDER SUCH HARSH PUNISHMENT...
...IS BECAUSE ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THEY HELPED "DEVIL" DESHWITAT AND HIS COMPANY... OR IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR SIDE...


...THAT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DOESN'T EVEN THE VATICAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DESHWITAT MAY BE THE CHOSEN ONE TO SAVE US FROM THE COMING APOCALYPSE?
GETTING PUNISHED FOR HELPING HIM—ISN'T SOMETHING STRANGE HERE?
EK


I HAVE NO SATISFACTORY ANSWERS FOR YOU, REMI. THIS IS HOW THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP HAS ALWAYS BEEN.
IT'S FRUSTRATING, BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACKNOWLEDGING A POSSIBILITY, AND KNOWING IT TO BE TRUE.
EVEN IF DESHWITAT IS THE SAVIOR OF THIS WORLD, THE VATICAN WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE A CREATURE BORN OF DARKNESS AS SUCH.

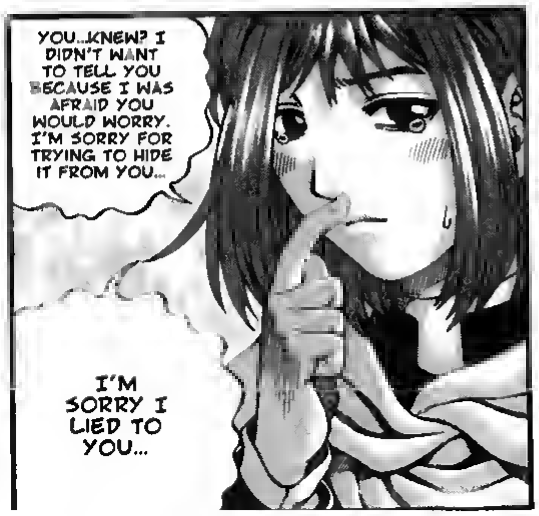
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!


ENOUGH. LET'S BE ON OUR WAY.
TECH

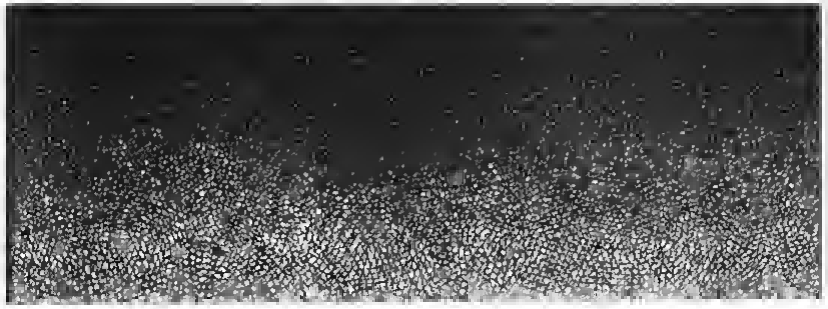

I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE.
I SHALL TAKE YOU TO THE TOWER OF TRIALS.

I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU. IF YOU WERE FOUND OUT AND PUNISHED...
MILLENEAR IS LIKE A DAUGHTER TO ME.

IF SHE'S IN A PREDICAMENT, I CANNOT JUST SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.


YOU...KNEW? I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD WORRY. I'M SORRY FOR TRYING TO HIDE IT FROM YOU...
I'M SORRY I LIED TO YOU...

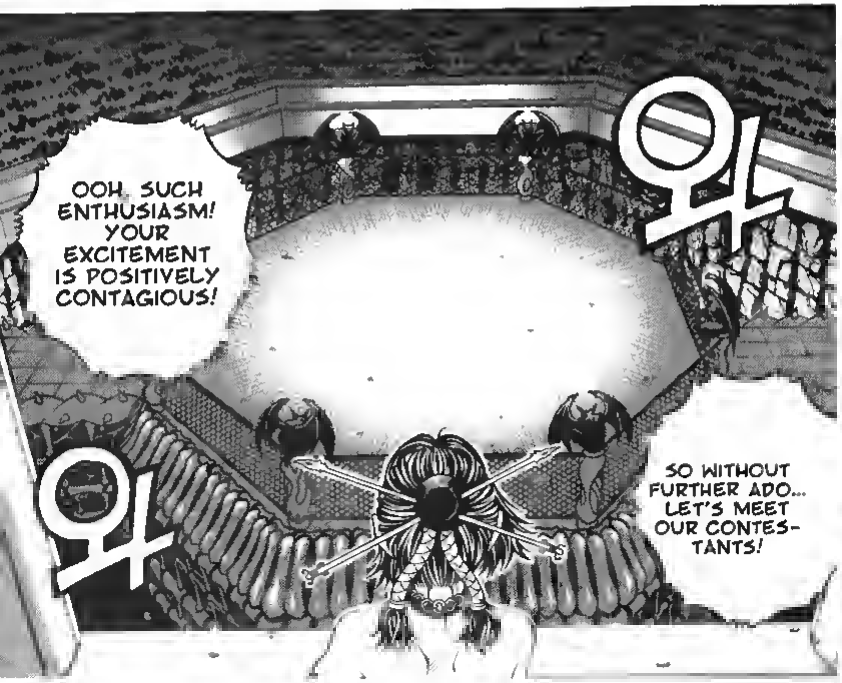
IT'S OKAY, REMI...YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT IT.
Heh heh.
휘이이이



FRIENDS AND FIENDS... ARE YOU READY?
TODAY IS ROUND 16 OF THE VAMPIRE LORD TOURNAMENT... SO LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!
YEAH!
KILL KILL KILL!

Chapter 70: A Shred of Doubt

ENOUGH TALK! WE WANT BLOOD!
FIGHT--!!
DIE--!!
LET THE BLOOD BATH BEGIN!


OOH, SUCH ENTHUSIASM! YOUR EXCITEMENT IS POSITIVELY CONTAGIOUS!
SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO... LET'S MEET OUR CONTES-TANTS!

THERE ARE 16 REMAINING COMPETITORS WHO HAVE SHED BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS... SACRIFICED MUSCLE AND BONE... TO MAKE IT THIS FAR!
GROUP C, HIATORI AND ESTRALLA. GROUP D, MORRISSEY AND PRIX.
GROUP F, JOO AND SONG.
FIRST, GROUP A, COMPETITOR KYLE AND COMPETITOR COQUETTE. GROUP B, COMPETITOR KOSIBORO AND COMPETITOR RUDBICH.
GROUP G, OTENBURG AND GREY...

16TH ROUND...
SO MANY OF THE USELESS CATTLE CROWDING THE WAITING ROOM ARE GONE NOW.
TWO MORE FIGHTS TO GO. I WILL USE THE POWER YOU GAVE ME.
BUT, I THANK YOU.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR POWER I WAS ABLE TO GET HERE.
...UNTIL I MAKE DESHWITAT MINE FOREVER.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHY.
THE REASON WHY YOU MADE ME INTO A VAMPIRE.
.....
...HUH?
I'M SORRY.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

YOU'VE BEEN DISTRACTED FOR DAYS NOW.
EVER SINCE I TOLD YOU OF DESH AND YOUR PARENTS' PAST. IT MUST BE QUITE THE SHOCK TO YOU.
IT HURTS ME AS WELL, YOU KNOW. KNOWING DESH STILL LOVES LILITH AFTER 350 YEARS, AND CAN'T FORGET HER. I WONDER, WHAT DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
HE BELIEVES KALUTIKA IS KEEPING HER ALIVE THROUGH MAGICAL MEANS FOR SOME SINISTER PURPOSE. HE COULD NEVER GUESS KALUTIKA HAS TAKEN HER AS HIS WIFE.
AND SHOULD HE FIND OUT YOU ARE THE SON OF HIS BELOVED AND HIS GREATEST ENEMY, I WONDER, HOW WILL HE REACT?
지잉

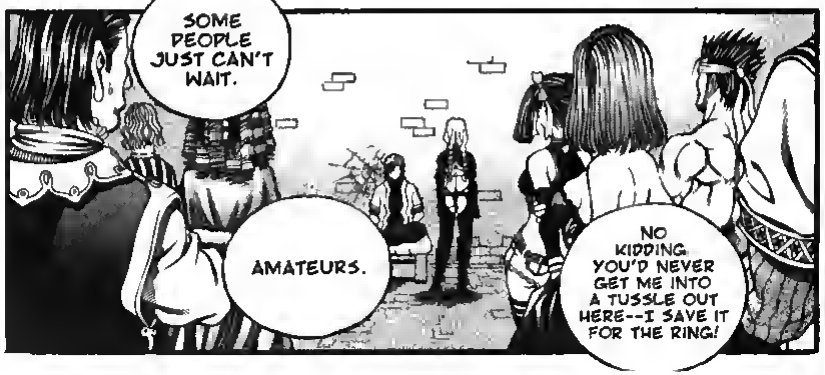
WELL, WELL.
HAD SOMEONE WARNED ME THIS ROOM WAS FILLED WITH SUCH LUCKLESS BASTARDS, I'D NEVER HAVE ENTERED THIS ROOM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IGNORE HIM. SAY NOTHING.
YOU TWO LOOK A LITTLE QUEASY. SOMETHING YOU ATE, MAYBE?
GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL NEED IT.
THEY SAY THE SMALLER THE DOG, THE BIGGER THE BARK.
TO HIDE THEIR FEAR, THAT IS.
HA HA HA HA HA! FINE, FINE. THAT'S ACTUALLY FUNNY.
HONESTLY, I LIKE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR. TOO BAD I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU. WE COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS.
YOU SEEM TO BE OVERDOING IT A BIT, DESHWITAT...
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A POKER PLAYER. I CAN SMELL YOUR BLUFF A MILE OFF. I CAN SMELL YOUR FEAR.
WE'LL SEE. BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT.
LILITH WAS HER NAME, WASN'T IT? THE ONE YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO SAVE?

ENOUGH, MILLY.

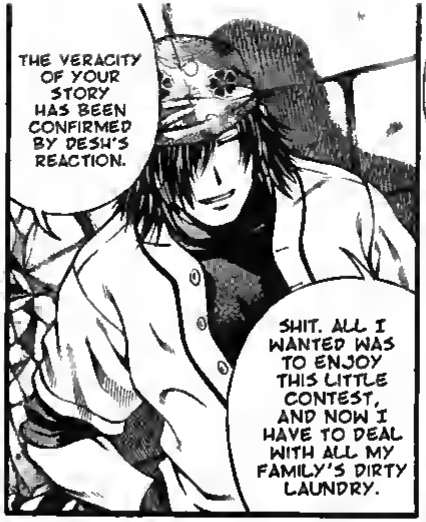
DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY, DESHWITAT.
AFTER ALL, IN FIVE DAYS...IT'S MINE.

WE SHALL SEE.

YOU TWO ARE QUITE A PAIR.
OFF WITH YOU, THEN. I GROW BORED WITH YOU BOTH.


SOME PEOPLE JUST CAN'T WAIT.
AMATEURS.
NO KIDDING. YOU'D NEVER GET ME INTO A TUSSLE OUT HERE--I SAVE IT FOR THE RING!

WELL, MILLENEAR... THAT PROVES YOUR VERSION OF EVENTS IS CORRECT.


THE VERACITY OF YOUR STORY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY DESH'S REACTION.
SHIT. ALL I WANTED WAS TO ENJOY THIS LITTLE CONTEST, AND NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL MY FAMILY'S DIRTY LAUNDRY.

MILL?
YES, GREY?

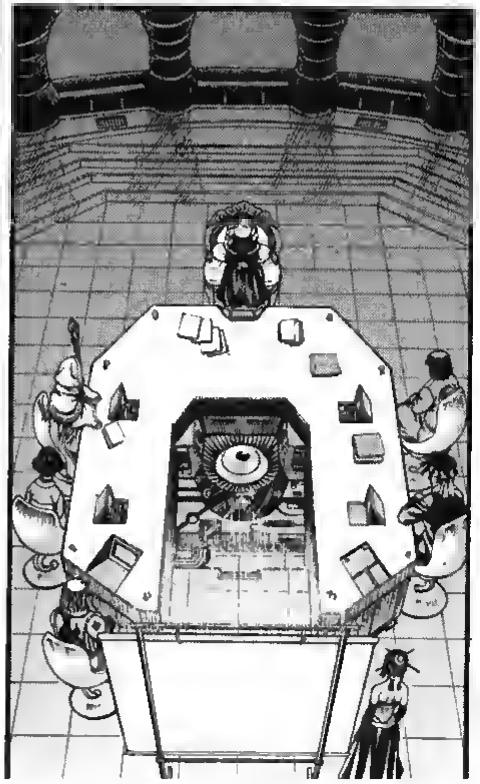
HOW'D YOU FEEL ABOUT GETTING YOUR CLAWS INTO DESH A LITTLE SOONER THAN WE PLANNED?

WAITING ROOM A

…?!!

MISTRESS ISABELLE! THERE'S BEEN AN EMERGENCY!
UH... BREAKING NEWS, FIGHT FANS...
HUH? NEWS?
BETTER NOT BE A DELAY!
THERE HAS JUST BEEN AN UNFORTUNATE EXPLOSION IN THE WAITING AREA..
AND IT SEEMS MOST OF THE 16 PLAYERS WHO MADE IT THIS FAR...
...WELL, UH...LET'S JUST SAY THAT THEY'VE HAD THEIR LIVING LICENSES REVOKED.

REBIRTH
#140
STORY & ART BY
WOO



Vampire Council of Elders

Known as "The Eternal Six."

As the eldest of all the vampire race, they wield unimaginable power.

Head Statesman
Matilda Portman
(Age 1611)

..DUE TO THE UNFORSEEABLE EXPLOSION, THE GROUPS A AND C WERE KILLED..
A TOTAL OF 46 WERE UNABLE TO BE REVIVED. THE REMAINING 18 SUFFERED CRITICAL INJURIES, AND SOME WON'T LAST THE NIGHT.
THE ONLY CONTESTANTS UNHARMED WERE GREY, SHEFFIELD AND LUDBICH. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE THE TOURNAMENT!

THE DAMAGE TO THE ARENA ALONE...
STOP! SHUT UP. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
LET'S STOP THIS NONSENSE AND GET RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER...
CLEARLY THIS EXPLOSION WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL. SO WHO HAD THE MOST TO GAIN BY DESTROYING THE OTHER 16 CONTESTANTS?
ANYONE?

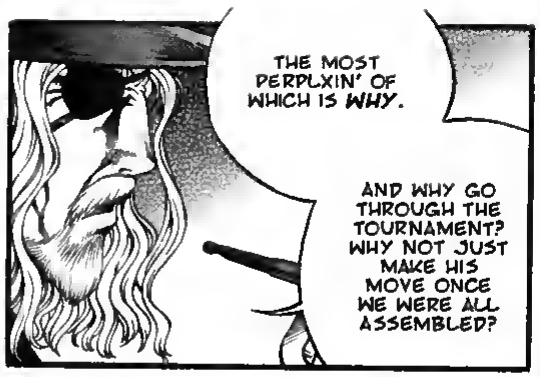
I DON'T THINK WE NEED HOLMES AND WATSON ON THIS PARTICULAR MYSTERY.
IT'S CLEAR THAT GREY IS RESPONSIBLE. I WARNED YOU OF HIS...AMBITIONS.

WHY, SISTER MATILDA...IF YOU'LL INDULGE AN OLD MAN...YOU LOOK AS LOVELY AS EVER.

YOU MAY DISPENSE WITH THE PLEASANTRIES, DRAISTAIL.
Explain yourself.

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN.
I'VE SUSPECTED FOR A LONG TIME NOW GREY WAS LOOKING TO KILL OFF THE VAMPIRES...

ALTHOUGH I ADMIT, THERE'RE A FEW PIECES MISSING FROM THE PUZZLE.


THE MOST PERPLEXIN' OF WHICH IS WHY.
AND WHY GO THROUGH THE TOURNAMENT? WHY NOT JUST MAKE HIS MOVE ONCE WE WERE ALL ASSEMBLED?

PERHAPS WE'LL FIND OUT ONCE WE STRIP THE FLESH FROM HIS BONES.
I'M SURE GREY IS QUITE POWERFUL, BUT THE MIGHT OF THIS ASSEMBLED COUNCIL--
YOU GONNA LEAD THE CHARGE AGAINST GREY, BIG SISTER?

YOU GOT THE SAND, I'LL GIVE YA THAT...
...BUT GREY IS BEYOND ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER FACED... ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER IMAGINED.

AND EVEN IF YA COULD... YOU HEARD THE NAME KALUTIKA? GOD OF LIGHT?
HE'S IN GREY'S CORNER.

WHAT...?
YOU MEAN TO SAY A GOD...

I MEAN TO SAY YOU'RE POWERFUL...BUT GREY'S OUTTA YOUR LEAGUE. HELL, YOU AIN'T EVEN PLAYIN' THE SAME SPORT.
SURELY THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THIS COUNCIL...

...WOULDN'T MAKE A LICK O' DIFFERENCE
YOU MESS WITH THAT BULL, YOU'LL GET KALUTIKA'S HORNS. GUARANTEED.

타

THE GOD OF LIGHT...
...KALUTIKA MAYBUS...

...IF THAT'S TRUE...
...WE'D BEST BE PREPARED.
WHATEVER IT IS THAT KALUTIKA AND GREY HAVE PLANNED...
...IT'S OBVIOUS THE TITLE OF VAMPIRE LORD IS A PART OF IT.
WHAT'RE YOU PLOTTING, OLDER SISTER?

와아아

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WELL... LOOKS LIKE...

...THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW...
TO BE CONTINUED IN REBIRTH VOLUME 18!

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In their attempt to contact and enlist the aid of the Order of St. Michael, Remi and Eiji find themselves in the unlikely roles of rescuers. If they want the help of the elite covert exorcism team, the inexperienced pair will first have to break them out of the dreaded Tower of Trials!
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